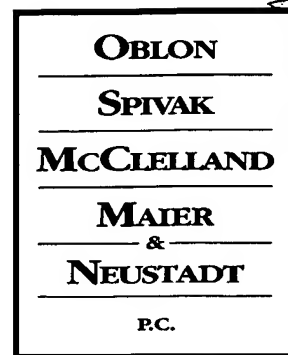




Docket No.: 239875US8SRD

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ECKHARD H. KUESTERS  
(703) 413-3000  
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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/614,315

Applicants: Shinichiro HAMADA

Filing Date: July 8, 2003

For: DOCUMENT EDITING METHOD, DOCUMENT  
EDITING SYSTEM, SERVER APPARATUS, AND  
DOCUMENT EDITING PROGRAM

Group Art Unit: 2176

Examiner: BLACKWELL, J.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

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DOCKET NO: 239875US2SRD



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
SHINICHIRO HAMADA : EXAMINER: BLACKWELL, J.  
SERIAL NO: 10/614,315 :  
FILED: JULY 8, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2176  
FOR: DOCUMENT EDITING METHOD, :  
DOCUMENT EDITING SYSTEM,  
SERVER APPARATUS, AND  
DOCUMENT EDITING PROGRAM

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated October 6, 2005, Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-20, drawn to structured document processing, classified in class, 715, subclass 513, for further examination on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected invention.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action identifies different search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional

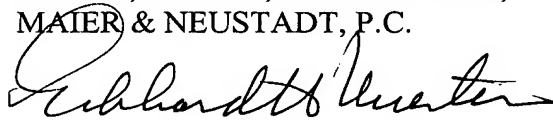
Application No. 10/614,315  
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2005

effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-27 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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(OSMMN 08/03)

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